IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a request ~~coming~~ from a first communication apparatus connected through a communication network to a remote second communication apparatus, the method being implemented in the second apparatus, the method comprising ~~a step~~ the steps of:

receiving [[the]] a request for obtaining digital data of a compressed digital signal that comprises header data and a signal body comprising ~~in particular~~ data packets; and [[,]] ~~wherein the~~

processing [[of]] the request ~~comprises a step of~~ including determining [[the]] a position, in the body of the signal, of at least one data packet corresponding to the request as a function of ~~according, on the one hand, to~~ the length of the header data and~~, on the other hand, to~~ of at least one pointer marker present in the header data of the signal, the at least one pointer marker ~~and adapted to provide~~ providing information for calculating the length of the part of the body preceding the data packet under consideration.

2. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~the determination~~ said determining of the length of the part of the body of the signal

preceding the data packet under consideration comprises a preliminary step of determining the order of appearance of [[said]] the data packet in the body of the signal, according to parameters relating to [[the]] structure and organization of the data in the signal.

3. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 1, wherein the compressed digital signal is partitioned into a number n of independently compressed regions $t_i$ = 1 to n and $n \geq 1$, the body of the signal comprising, for each region, region header data and a region body containing data packets of the region under consideration.

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 3, wherein the length of the part of the body of the signal preceding the data packet under consideration is determined from:

at least one pointer marker PLT ~~adapted to provide in particular~~ providing information for calculating the length of the data packet or packets preceding the data packet under consideration in the region where this packet is located,

the length of the header data of the region where the packet under consideration is located and, when one or more regions precede the region where the packet under consideration is located,

at least one pointer marker TLM ~~adapted to provide in particular~~ providing information for calculating the length of the preceding region or regions.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 4, wherein [[the]] a pointer marker TLM ~~(TLM) adapted to provide~~ providing information for calculating the length of each region $t_i$ is present in the header data.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 4, wherein [[the]] a pointer marker PLT ~~(PLT) adapted to provide~~ providing information for calculating the length of the data packets in a region $t_i$ is present in the header data of the region concerned.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 1, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising the steps of extracting and transmitting to the first communication apparatus [[said]] the at least one data packet [[whose]] having a position that has been determined.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request for obtaining digital data specifies at least one data packet of the signal.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 1, wherein the request for obtaining digital data specifies part of the signal.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 9, wherein, subsequent to the request being received, the method comprises a step of identifying the data packet or packets necessary for the reconstruction of the part of the signal specified.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 1, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising a preliminary step of forming [[said]] the at least one pointer marker in the signal[[,]] when such a marker is not present in the signal.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of processing compressed digital data received by a first communication apparatus connected through a communication network to a remote second communication apparatus, the method being implemented in the first communication apparatus, the method comprising [[a]] the steps [[step]] of:

receiving at least one data packet ~~coming~~ from a compressed digital signal present in the second apparatus and comprising a body that comprises ~~in particular~~ data packets; ~~wherein the method comprises the following steps:~~

determining a position at which [[said]] the at least one data packet ~~must~~ is to be inserted into the body of a compressed digital signal derived from the compressed digital signal present in the second apparatus and which is capable of containing all or part of the body of this compressed digital signal, the derived signal also comprising header data, the position being determined as a function of ~~according, on the one hand, to~~ the length of the header data and~~, on the other hand, to~~ of at least one pointer

marker previously received and inserted into the header data of the signal by the first apparatus, the at least one pointer marker ~~and which is adapted to provide~~ providing information for calculating the length of the part of the body preceding [[said]] the at least one data packet; and [[,]]

inserting into the body of the derived signal [[said]] the at least one data packet at the determined position ~~thus determined~~.

13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 12, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising the ~~following~~ preliminary steps of:

receiving the header data ~~coming~~ from the original compressed digital signal present in the second apparatus, the received header data comprising at least one pointer marker TLM ~~adapted to provide~~ providing information for calculating the length of the body of the original signal; and [[,]]

forming, from the received header data, ~~forming~~ the derived compressed digital signal which thus comprises, as header data, the received header data and a signal body of length equal to that of the body of the original signal, the body of the derived signal representing a space initially filled with arbitrary data and which is intended to contain the data packet or packets received from the second apparatus.

14. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 12, wherein the compressed digital signal is partitioned into a number n of independently

compressed regions $t_i$, i = 1 to n and $n \geq 1$, the body of the signal comprising, for each region, region header data and a region body containing data packets of the region under consideration.

15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 14, wherein the length of the part of the body of the signal preceding the data packet under consideration is determined from:

at least one pointer marker PLT ~~adapted to provide in particular~~ providing information for calculating the length of the data packet or packets preceding the data packet under consideration in the region where this packet is located,

the length of the header data of the region where the packet under consideration is located, and,

when one or more regions precede the region where the packet under consideration is located, at least one pointer marker TLM ~~adapted to provide in particular~~ providing information for calculating the length of the preceding region or regions.

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 15, wherein [[the]] a pointer marker ~~adapted to provide~~ providing information for calculating the length of each region t is present in the header data.

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 15, wherein [[the]] a pointer marker ~~adapted to provide~~ providing information for calculating the length of the data packets in a region $t_i$ is present in the header data of the region concerned.

18. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 14, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising the ~~following~~ steps of:

receiving region header data;

determining a position at which the received region header data [[must]] is to be inserted into the body of the derived signal, the position being determined according to the length of the header data of the derived signal and, when one or more regions precede the region header data concerned, [[also]] according to one or more pointer markers TLM received previously and providing respectively the length of the preceding region or regions; and

inserting the received region header data at the determined position ~~thus determined~~.

19. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 12, wherein the determination of the length of the part of the body of the derived signal preceding the data packet under consideration comprises a preliminary step of determining

the order of appearance of [[said]] the data packet in the body of the signal according to parameters relating to [[the]] structure and organization of the data in the signal.

20. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 13, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising a phase of converting the derived signal into a valid signal ~~which comprises the following steps~~ comprising:

extracting from the derived signal the header data and data packets received;

forming the header data of the valid signal from the header data extracted from the derived signal;

concatenating the data packets extracted from the derived signal in the body of the valid signal; and

when one or more data packets present in the body of the original signal are not received by the first apparatus, concatenating respectively one or more empty packets in the body of the valid signal in the same order of appearance as that adopted in the derived signal.

21. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 13, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising the ~~following~~ steps of:

going through the data contained in the body of the derived signal;

converting, when the data gone through does not correspond to a data packet received from the second apparatus, ~~converting~~ the space filled by the data concerned into an empty packet; and

shifting in an adapted manner the data ~~constituting~~ comprising the remainder of the body of the derived signal.

22. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method according to Claim 12, wherein the data received by the first apparatus ~~constitute~~ comprises the reply to a request previously transmitted from the first apparatus to the second apparatus.

23. (Currently Amended) A device for processing a request coming from a first communication apparatus connected through a communication network to a remote second communication apparatus, the device being implemented in the second apparatus, the device comprising:

means of receiving [[the]] a request for obtaining digital data of a compressed digital signal that comprises header data and a signal body comprising ~~in particular~~ data packets; ~~, wherein the device comprises, for~~

means of processing the request[[,]] including means of determining [[the]] a position, in the body of the signal, of at least one data packet corresponding to the request as a function of ~~according, on the one hand, to~~ the length of the header data and~~, on the other hand, to~~ of at least one pointer marker present in the header data of the signal, the

at least one pointer marker ~~and adapted to provide~~ providing information for calculating the length of the part of the body preceding the data packet under consideration.

24. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device according to Claim 23, wherein [[the]] said means of determining the length of the part of the body of the signal preceding the data packet under consideration comprise ~~in particular~~ means of determining the order of appearance of [[said]] the data packet in the body of the signal[[,]] according to parameters relating to [[the]] structure and organization of the data in the signal.

25. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device according to Claim 23, wherein the compressed digital signal is partitioned into a number n of independently compressed regions $t_i$, i = 1 to n and $n \geq 1$, the body of the signal comprising, for each region, region header data and a region body containing data packets of the region under consideration.

26. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device according to Claim 25, wherein the length of the part of the body of the signal preceding the data packet under consideration is determined from:

at least one pointer marker PLT ~~adapted to provide in particular~~ providing information for calculating the length of the data packet or packets preceding the data packet under consideration in the region where this packet is located,

the length of the header data of the region where the packet under consideration is located,

and, when one or more regions precede the region where the packet under consideration is located, at least one pointer marker TLM ~~adapted to provide in particular~~ providing information for calculating the length of the preceding region or regions.

27. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device according to Claim 23, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising means of extracting and transmitting to the first communication apparatus [[said]] the at least one data packet [[whose]] having a position that has been determined.

28. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device according to Claim 23, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising means of forming [[said]] the at least one pointer marker in the signal, when such a marker is not present in the signal.

29. (Currently Amended) A device for processing compressed digital data received by a first communication apparatus connected through a communication network to a remote second communication apparatus, the device being implemented in the first communication apparatus, the device comprising:

means of receiving at least one data packet ~~coming~~ from a compressed digital signal present in the second apparatus and comprising a body that comprises ~~in particular~~ data packets, ~~wherein the device comprises:~~

means of determining a position at which [[said]] the at least one data packet ~~must~~ is to be inserted into the body of a compressed digital signal derived from the compressed digital signal present in the second apparatus and which is capable of containing all or part of the body of this compressed digital signal, the derived signal also comprising header data, the position being determined as a function of ~~according, on the one hand, to~~ the length of the header data and~~, on the other hand, to~~ of at least one pointer marker previously received and inserted into the header data of the signal by the first apparatus, the at least one pointer marker ~~and which is adapted to provide~~ providing information for calculating the length of the part of the body preceding [[said]] the at least one data packet; and

means of inserting, into the body of the derived signal, [[said]] the at least one data packet at the determined position ~~thus determined~~.

30. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device according to Claim 29, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising:

means of receiving the header data ~~coming~~ from the original compressed digital signal present in the second apparatus, the received header data

comprising at least one pointer marker TLM ~~adapted to provide~~ providing information for calculating the length of the body of the original signal; and [[,]]

means of forming the derived compressed digital signal from the received header data and which thus comprises, as header data, the received header data and a signal body of length equal to that of the body of the original signal, the body of the derived signal representing a space initially filled with arbitrary data and which is intended to contain the data packet or packets received from the second apparatus.

31. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device according to Claim 29, wherein the compressed digital signal is partitioned into a number n of independently compressed regions $t_i$, i = 1 to n and $n \geq 1$, the body of the signal comprising, for each region, region header data and a region body containing data packets of the region under consideration.

32. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device according to Claim 31, wherein the length of the part of the body of the signal preceding the data packet under consideration is determined from:

at least one pointer marker PLT ~~adapted to provide in particular~~ providing information for calculating the length of the data packet or packets preceding the data packet under consideration in the region where this packet is located,

the length of the header data of the region where the packet under consideration is located, and,

when one or more regions precede the region where the packet under consideration is located, at least one pointer marker TLM ~~adapted to provide in particular~~ providing information for calculating the length of the preceding region or regions.

33. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device according to Claim 31, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising:

means of receiving region header data;

means of determining a position at which the received region header data [[must]] is to be inserted into the body of the derived signal, the position being determined according to the length of the header data of the derived signal and, when one or more regions precede the region header data concerned, also according to one or more pointer markers TLM received previously and providing respectively the length of the preceding region or regions; and

means of inserting the received region header data at the determined position ~~thus determined~~.

34. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device according to Claim 29, wherein [[the]] said means of determining the length of the part of the body of the derived signal preceding the data packet under consideration comprises ~~in particular~~ means of determining the order of appearance of [[said]] the data packet in the body of the signal[[,]]

according to parameters relating to [[the]] structure and organization of the data in the signal.

35. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device according to Claim 30, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising means of converting the derived signal into a valid signal which comprises ~~more particularly~~:

means of extracting from the derived signal header data and data packets received;

means of forming the header data of the valid signal from the header data extracted from the derived signal; and

means of concatenating the data packets extracted from the derived signal in the body of the valid signal and, when one or more data packets present in the body of the original signal are not received by the first apparatus, [[of]] concatenating respectively one or more empty packets in the body of the valid signal in the same order of appearance as that adopted in the derived signal.

36. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The device according to Claim 30, ~~wherein it comprises~~ further comprising:

means of going through the data contained in the body of the derived signal;

means of converting, when the data gone through does not correspond to a data packet received from the second apparatus, ~~means of converting~~ the space filled by the data concerned into an empty packet; and

means of shifting in an adapted manner the data ~~constituting~~ comprising the remainder of the body of the derived signal.

37. and 38. (Canceled)

39. (Original) An information storage means readable by a computer or a microprocessor comprising code instructions of a computer program for executing the steps of the method of processing a request according to Claim 1.

40. (Original) An information storage means readable by a computer or a microprocessor comprising code instructions of a computer program for executing the steps of the method of processing data according to Claim 12.

41. (Original) An information storage means that is removable, partially or totally, readable by a computer or a microprocessor comprising code instructions of a computer program for executing the steps of the method of processing a request according to Claim 1.

42. (Original) An information storage means that is removable, partially or totally, readable by a computer or a microprocessor comprising code instructions of a computer program for executing the steps of the method of processing data according to Claim 12.

43. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored in a computer-readable medium for loading ~~that can be loaded~~ into a programmable apparatus, ~~wherein it comprises~~ comprising sequences of instructions or portions of software code for implementing the steps of the method of processing a request according to Claim 1, when [[this]] the computer program is loaded and executed by the programmable apparatus.

44. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored in a computer-readable medium for loading ~~that can be loaded~~ into a programmable apparatus, ~~wherein it comprises~~ comprising sequences of instructions or portions of software code for implementing the steps of the method of processing data according to Claim 12, when [[this]] the computer program is loaded and executed by the programmable apparatus.